



THE MOKI MESSENGER

OCTOBER 2019

SAN JUAN BASIN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

www.sibas.org

Next Meeting – October 9th

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 9th, at 7:00 p.m. in the lyceum at the Center of Southwest Studies at Fort Lewis College. After a brief business meeting, Dr. Michelle Turner will present: "Becoming Chacoan at the Aztec North Great House." There will be a social at 6:30 p.m. in the CSWS foyer.

Dr. Turner is an archaeologist who works on Chaco Canyon and its outliers. She is currently a postdoctoral scholar with the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center Research Institute, where she works on ceramic analysis research related to the Northern Chacoan Outliers Project.

Dr. Turner is also continuing her research on the Aztec North great house at Aztec Ruins National Monument. The Aztec North project explores the chronology and construction of this previously unexcavated great house, as well as Aztec North's place within the cultural landscape of Aztec Ruins and the Chacoan world. She uses materiality theory, landscape archaeology and sociopolitical theory in her work on the Chacoan world.

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Volunteer Opportunity

We need one more volunteer to help with the **October 9th pre-meeting social**. Please email Susan Hicks at hicks@animas.net or call 970-759-7152 if you would like to volunteer.

President's Letter

Dear SJBAS Members:

I would like to extend my personal thank you, and that of the SJBAS Board, for all those who helped to make the Third Annual John W Sanders lecture a success. Rhonda Raffo organized all the volunteers for the night of the program, including those who welcomed guests, checked in students, sold tickets, checked in will call attendees and sold the book, co-authored by our guest speaker, Linda F. Carnes-McNaughton, "Blackbeard's Sunken Prize". Jim Mueller created the flyer and the ads in the Durango Herald. Board members placed flyers around the town. Foxie and Dick Mason hosted a get together for our speaker and all the volunteers. We appreciate everyone's hard work.

Planning for the Future

With the SJBAS withdrawal from the Colorado Archaeological Society, SJBAS, as a standalone organization, needs to plan for its future as a self-sustaining organization. Therefore, the Board plans to have a structured discussion at the Annual meeting and Brunch on Member's ideas on how to improve the services we provide to the membership and the Community. Please plan to come prepared with your thoughts on how SJBAS can enhance its work.

Annual Meeting and Holiday Brunch

Mark your calendars for the SJBAS annual meeting and holiday brunch in the Vallecito Room at Fort Lewis College Student Union on **Saturday morning, December 7th**.

If you have any lightly used items you would like to CONTRIBUTE TO A SILENT AUCTION to benefit the John W. Sanders Education and Internship Fund, please plan to come a little early and bring the items and a pen or pencil to fill out a silent auction sheet with item description, value and opening bid. Last year we made \$400 for the Fund, and this year we hope to do even better. In addition, if you would like to contribute an item as a door prize, please bring it wrapped.

Be sure to bring cash or a check to pay for silent auction items and so that you can pay your 2020 SJBAS dues.

The slate of proposed officers for 2020 will be provided in the November or December Moki, and nominations from the floor can be made at the annual meeting.

Janice C. Sheftel, President, SJBAS

SJBAS Field Trip Planning Meeting – October 7th

Our annual field trip planning meeting will be held on October 7th from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Hancock's house. All members who are interested in our field trip program are welcome to attend. Please RSVP to Lyle at lylehancock54@gmail.com if you can join us.

Historic Injustice, Tribes, and the Future: The Case for Tribal Sovereignty

On Thursday, October 10th, at 7:00 p.m. in the lyceum at the Center of Southwest Studies at Fort Lewis College, Troy A. Eid will present: 'Historic Injustice, Tribes, and the Future: The Case for Tribal Sovereignty'. This presentation is sponsored by the FLC History Department. Follow this link to flyer: [Tribal Sovereignty](#).

Troy A. Eid is a principal shareholder in the Denver office of Greenberg Traurig, one of the world's largest law firms. He co-chairs the firm's American Indian Law Practice Group and is often jointly selected as a mediator to resolve disputes between Indian tribes and energy companies, and between tribes and state governments. He is Chief Judge Pro Tem of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. Troy currently serves as the President of the Navajo Nation Bar Association and is a past recipient of NNBA's Member of the Year Award. Most recently, Troy was voted by his peers as the 2020 Lawyer of the Year for Native American Law by BEST LAWYERS IN AMERICA.

Please Join us in celebrating our concentration in Public History!
Questions/information: Dr. Ellen Paul, Chair, History Dept. (970) 247-7267

Recruiting a President for SJBAS Board of Directors

Janice Sheftel will resign as President of SJBAS as of December 31, 2019 but will remain on the Board as Program Chair. We are actively seeking a new Board President who will work with Janice through the end of the year and prepare to become President on January 1, 2020. Please contact one of our vice presidents, Susan Hicks hicks@animas.net or Foxie Mason fmason@frontier.net, for more information.

PAAC Class in Durango – 'Colorado Archaeology' - November 22 - 24

Becca Simon, assistant Colorado State archaeologist, will present the introductory PAAC Class 'Colorado Archaeology' from November 22 - 24 in the Lyceum at the Center of Southwest Studies at FLC. This will be a good overview for those who are new SJBAS members. Cost is \$20 per person.

Friday, Nov. 22nd, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Sat. Nov. 23rd, 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Sun. Nov. 24th, 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

This course is a general survey of Colorado's American Indian heritage. It discusses the various stages of prehistoric and historic Native American development, time and regional relationships, lifestyles, origins, social organization and technology. Although an outline of historically known tribes in Colorado is included, the emphasis is on the Pre-Columbian era. The course is necessary for understanding cultural affiliation and cultural use of a region. Anyone remotely interested in Colorado archaeology should take this type of course. Follow this link to a [course outline](#). If you are interested in this class, contact Tish Varney at tishvarney@att.net.

Amid calls for preservation, CDOT says sites cannot be saved

Native American ruins more than 1,000 years old have been unearthed just south of Durango, where CDOT is realigning a 2-mile stretch of Highway 550. The initial discovery was made years ago as part of the highway department's early work to realign the road, but the extent of ruins wasn't realized until this year when archaeologists began excavating and documenting the sites. – Durango Herald ([Read article](#))

Field Trip Report - Southern Ute Cultural Center

On September 6th Susan and Donn Hicks, Sandra Eisemann, and Rhonda and Jim headed to Ignacio, looking forward to the "Behind the Scenes Tour" at the Cultural Center. We were excited to be able to see the many artifacts that the Center had. Unfortunately, the tour guide had a health ailment, so we weren't able to visit this area. So, it is something we can look forward to in the future!

We were lucky that a respected Elder was available to take us through the Gallery Exhibit after we viewed the excellent "Circle of Life" video! Our guide's name was Hanley Frest. He is one of 26 Elders who speak their native language. Their language is the same as the Shoshone and Piute Tribes.

We learned that the Utes were the first tribe to acquire horses through bartering and stealing from Hispanic settlers. The Southern Utes believe that "the land belongs to all of us. We use it. It gives us whatever we need. The European concept of land ownership is completely different. Put a price on it, build boundaries around it.... A lot of my elders didn't understand that."

So, stay tuned for a return visit to take the "Behind the Scenes Tour"!

- By trip leaders Rhonda Raffo and Jim Mueller

Field Trip Report - Haynie Site

On September 13th, Jim Mueller and Rhonda Raffo led a return trip to the Haynie Site. The site was first visited last year, so it was very interesting to see the excavation progress. One area of the site was three times as deep as last year!

The site tour leader, Kellam Throgmorton, Supervisory Archaeologist at Crow Canyon, was extremely knowledgeable and very enthusiastic about the site. He said people had known about it since the 1300's. In the 1880's farming took place here, but it wasn't until the 1960's that archaeologists became aware of it.

The Haynie's purchased the home on this site in 1978, and Mrs. Haynie accurately recorded the layout of the Great Houses and surrounding buildings from 1980 - 2005. They hired Johnson and Englehart to help dig for antiquities and, unfortunately, most of the West Great House was destroyed. Only two rooms out of 50 were left.

In the 2000's Crow Canyon became involved, and initial mapping of the site was in 2016. The main goal of their project is to envision what the landscape looked like before it was developed. Crow Canyon expects to continue excavating for another 5 years. The Archaeology Conservancy will acquire the property from a group of investors who purchased it from the Haynie's to protect the site and preserve the archaeology.



To date the excavation has focused on the West Great House and finding other structures that predate the West Great House. Through radiocarbon dating of wood found in the structures, the approximate date of the West Great House is 1075 - 1110 AD.

The structures that pre-date the West Great House are from:

800 - 875: Pueblo I village consisting of pit structures where about 350 people resided. One Pueblo I unit is 2 meters down. It is thought to have housed important families who had ritual responsibilities. It

appears that in 875 the villages were abandoned. Perhaps a crisis in leadership occurred or the climate was wavering. Seventy percent of the pueblo was burned during the Pueblo I abandonment.

900 - 920: This area was developed again, as a pit structure was built into an existing pit structure.

921: A Pueblo II "pit suite" was built in an 840 - 860 structure. There were room blocks in this section, and floor on floor on floor. One area is a shrine with broken stone from metates. Other items found are a bone gaming piece, chert biface projectile point shaped into a knife blade, PI and PII potsherds. Ceramics dating to the early 900's were discovered.

The next part of our tour was of the East Great House, which seems to have ties to Aztec in that Kiva one has a green band as the Aztec Kiva has. Also, there is a sub-floor vent in the Kiva, with markers to Chaco Culture.

The Aztec site is dated to 1110, but no date has been determined on the East Great House yet. However, wood in a pit house nearby has been dated to 1110, so this great house may be more connected to Aztec. The second kiva of this great house has remnants of a plaster wall, and a structure may be under the second kiva.



The third kiva dates to 1110 from tree ring testing and it is a Chaco-style kiva. Crow Canyon hopes to start excavating the East Great House next year.

The Haynie site seems to only have great houses and no smaller communities, but there are small house communities up the valley. There are two other great houses in view from the Haynie site, but they are on private property, as is the eastern most portion of the Haynie site. It is possible that more people lived in this area during this time than are living here today.

-- By Rhonda Raffo

Field trip participants were Gail and Marlo Schultz, Irene Wanner, Donna Brazell, Susan Whitfield, Tim Pargee, and trip leaders Jim Mueller and Rhonda Raffo.

Dates	<p style="text-align: center;">Upcoming SJBAS Field Trips and Activities - 2019</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Updates are in red.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Please contact trip leaders by phone or email for more information or to sign up.</p>
October 9	SJBAS meeting – Dr. Michelle Turner will present: "Becoming Chacoan at the Aztec North Great House."
November 13	SJBAS meeting – Randy McGuire will present: "Sonoran Archaeology."
December 7	SJBAS annual meeting and holiday brunch

Other Related Trips and Events

October 11 - 13	CAS - annual meeting in Pueblo - Follow this link for detailed information .
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Regional Archaeology News

Tattoo tool from Turkey Pen site on Cedar Mesa

Here is the [paper in the Journal of Archaeological Science](#) by Andrew Gillreath-Brown and colleague, Aaron Deter-Wolf, about the tattoo tool from the Turkey Pen site. – National Geographic ([Read article](#))

Climate Change Impacts on Mesa Verde National Park Already Apparent

Conversations about the impacts of climate change usually focus on what may or may not happen in the future. But at Mesa Verde National Park, the effects of an increasingly hot and dry climate are happening now and are only slated to get worse, park managers say. Tim Hovezak, Mesa Verde’s cultural resource manager, said nearly 70% of the landscape at the 52,485-acre park has been altered in just the last few decades for reasons that tie directly back to climate change. Namely, drought-driven fires. – Durango Herald ([Read article](#))

Archaeology Southwest Joins Conservation Organizations in Opposing Final Management Plan for Reduced Grand Staircase-Escalante

“There is no question that Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument was legitimately established through the authority granted by the Antiquities Act of 1906. There is no question that this magnificent landscape is also a cultural one, bearing unparalleled evidence of people’s lives over millennia. What this deeply flawed plan reveals, like the recently released Bears Ears plan, is a troubling question—do national monuments even mean anything anymore? We believe they do, and we stand with our partners in pushing for proper and lawful protections for Grand Staircase-Escalante and all our national monuments.” - William H. Doelle, Archaeology Southwest ([Read article](#))

Understanding When and How the Americas Were Populated

Most archaeologists would now agree that there were widely scattered, small but culturally diverse groups of people living in the Americas at least one or two millennia before the emergence of Clovis spear points. That estimate, then, placing people in the Americas roughly 15,000 years ago, is among the most conservative. – Sapiens ([Read article](#))

Controversial Changes Proposed for Management of National Forests in Utah

Heavy equipment use on fragile desert landscapes threatens to escalate erosion, encourage flammable invasive species, and destroy biomes already compromised by climate change, scientists say. Archeologists found the earliest evidence of wild potato use in North America near Grand Staircase, where less than 10 percent of the ground has been surveyed. In Utah, such projects endanger irreplaceable cultural artifacts and fossils that remain buried and unmapped. The BLM also plans to use chaining—a controversial practice in which two bulldozers drag an anchor chain that upends everything in its path—to fell trees in Grand Staircase, even though its own management plans found the method irreparably harms the landscape. – National Geographic ([Read article](#))

PBS News Hour Reports on the Debate over Public Lands

A recent study published in the journal “Science” found that the Trump administration is responsible for the largest reduction of federally protected land in U.S. history. President Trump has moved to shrink national monuments such as Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante in Utah. Jeffrey Brown has a story of a fight over land in Central Montana. It’s about the tension between conservation and development and what it could mean for the future of all of America’s public lands. It’s part of our regular segment on the Leading Edge of science. – PBS News Hour ([Read article](#))

SJBAS Elected Officers and Other Board Members - 2019

President	Janice Sheftel	janicesheftel@gmail.com
Vice President	Florence (Foxye) Mason	fmason@frontier.net
Vice President	Susan Hicks	hicks@animas.net
Secretary	Paula Lutz	paula@durango.net
Treasurer	Randy Graham	rg44@bresnan.net

Field Trip Program coordinator	Lyle Hancock	lylehancock54@gmail.com
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Programming chair	Janice Sheftel	janicesheftel@gmail.com
Publicity chair	Jill Tripp	jtripp51@yahoo.com
Webmaster and email coordinator	Lyle Hancock	lylehancock54@gmail.com

San Juan Basin Archaeological Society – Membership Renewal

Membership renewals are due by January 31st each year. Please complete the [SJBAS Annual Membership Form](#), make your check payable to ‘SJBAS’ and mail with the Annual Membership Form to: **SJBAS, Attn: Randy Graham, P.O. Box 3153, Durango, CO 81302.**